

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE NIH INTRAMURAL ANIMAL STUDY PROPOSAL FORM (4/03) - excerpt

ATTACHMENT 2 Guidelines for Pain/Distress Classification

Definitions:

***Pain** is an unpleasant sensory or emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage.¹

***Distress** is an aversive state in which an animal is unable to adapt completely to stressors and the resulting stress and shows maladaptive behavior.¹

(¹Recognition and Alleviation of Pain & Distress in Laboratory Animals, National Research Council, 1992)

Column C - Minimal, transient, or no pain or distress

These procedures are considered to produce minimal, transient, or no pain or distress when performed by competent individuals using recognized methods.

1. Administration of:
 - a. Anesthetics, analgesics, and tranquilizers
 - b. Fluid and electrolyte therapy
 - c. Immunizations
 - d. Oral medications
2. Peripheral catheterization
3. Blood collection (except intracardiac, and periorbital in some species, see below)
4. Gastric gavage
5. Certain procedures performed in the normal practice of veterinary medicine and those involving the diagnosis and treatment of disease (e.g., injections, palpations, skin scraping, radiography).
6. Euthanasia as performed in accordance with recommendations of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia.
7. Intracerebral inoculations in neonatal rodents. In many neonatal rodents intracerebral inoculations can be performed by trained personnel prior to cranial ossification, producing only transient pain or distress.

Column D - Pain or distress relieved by appropriate measures

Examples of procedures that may produce pain or distress, but which are performed using appropriate and adequate anesthetics, analgesics, or tranquilizers and followed with appropriate measures to alleviate pain or distress are as follows:

1. All surgery, including biopsy, gonadectomy, and neurophysiological manipulations or preparations such as implantation of electrodes and recording devices, and alterations to nerve or muscle fibers.
2. Burning, freezing, and branding.
3. Fracturing bones.
4. Electrical shocks including shock reinforcement, using voltage that is accepted as generally causing pain in humans.
5. Use of any agent that induces excessive inflammation or necrosis.
6. Drug or radiation toxicity testing, including survivability determinations, producing pain and distress.
7. Chair or stock restraint of un-adapted animals, or of any animal for more than 12 hours.
8. Skin or corneal corrosivity testing, including Draize testing.
9. Intracardiac blood collection.
10. Periorbital collection of blood from any species except mice and hamsters. Note: Periorbital collection from unanesthetized animals that do not possess a true orbital sinus, as do mice and hamsters, is discouraged.

Column E - Unrelieved pain or distress

Procedures, including those listed above for Column D, which are performed without appropriate and adequate anesthesia, analgesia, or tranquilizers; or which are not followed with appropriate measures to alleviate pain or distress; or which are not amenable to relief by therapeutic measures, must be listed in Column E.